Alumni Columns

Magazine Summer 2003
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Alumni personal Web sites

Dr. Chris Maggio, '85, '91
Director Alumni Affairs

Fellow Northwestern Graduates and Friends:

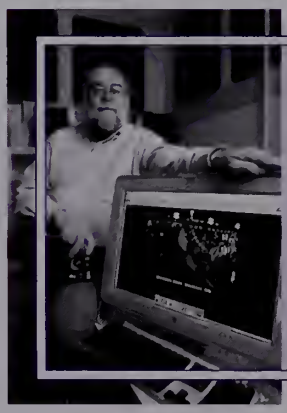
School Spirit

As we wind down yet another successful semester at our alma mater, I would like to reflect on something positive that I have seen while traveling the roads promoting NSU, and that is ***school spirit***. Annually, the Alumni Association hosts many events on campus and in several towns and cities. It is so pleasing to see the surge in participation, volunteerism and willingness to promote NSU.

At our Northwestern gatherings in your communities across the state and region, attendance at events has grown substantially. A prime example of this enthusiasm is at a recent crawfish boil in Plano, Texas. First of all, NSU alumni David and Kim Wright graciously hosted the event in their home and approximately 80-100 alumni attended the event. Attendees varied in age from recent graduates to folks who attended NSU in the 1950's. One thing that was obvious and consistent was that everyone had a genuine love for Northwestern.

Many conversations began similarly with "Well, when I was a student at NSU...". Smiles grew across faces as people reminisced about the brickshack, the Fieldhouse, Caldwell Hall, Saturday nights in Turpin Stadium, etc. You could feel a "common thread" that wove through all of us, and that thread was purple and white. You could feel the pride swell through all, and when we all left the event that night our love for NSU had grown even more. I cite this one example, but could relate to you many more at events throughout the year.

Level of participation within the Alumni Association varies among individuals, but one thing that I know to be true is that we, proud NSU alumni, can make a difference. We can continue to elevate our great university to higher heights. Stay involved with NSU, spread the positive word of our alma mater's continued success, and show everyone that you have a strong ***school spirit***...



About the cover: Sonny Carter posed for NSU Photographer, Gary Hardamon. Pictured is his Web site sonc.com.

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Alumni Office Phone: 318-357-4414 and 888-799-6486
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Alumni personal Web sites are a favorite way to communicate

Communication today is faster than ever before. Now more and more people are finding and reuniting with lost friends and family thanks to the internet.

Many NSU alumni have found that having a presence on the World Wide Web benefits their careers, hobbies and personal lives. Four alumni tell us the advantages of their personal Web sites.

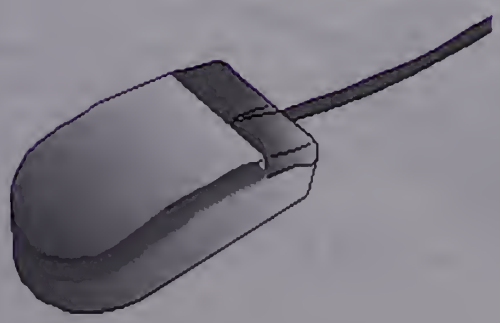
Tait Martin, a 1997 graduate, mixes business with fun for the visitors of his Web site. Martin, is an instructor at Florida State University as well as a motivational speaker, finds his site, taitmartin.com, a central location to keep up with his students, clients and friends.

"The Web is by far the easiest way to keep up with friends," said Martin. "Not only can they read what I've been up to, they can look at the pictures. The site originally began as a way for me to keep up with clients for my speaking and consulting business, but the focus has since changed. While I still have sections specifically for clients, I also have sections devoted to my students, travels, and friends. As far as keeping it up, I try to add something new once a month."

Martin's site is a reference for his students with links to communication theory, helpful publications and class syllabi. But this doesn't leave the site with a serious tone. You can find communication exercises and ice breakers in his "Brain Bubble" section or be amused by his travel antics in the "Crazy T-Shirt" tour. You can also view some of the works of art, a newfound hobby since he graduated from Northwestern.

One of the biggest advantages of his site is the connection with his NSU past.

"Surprisingly, taitmartin.com has become an incredible tool for keeping up with folks from NSU, " Martin said. "I have gotten hundreds of e-mails from faculty and friends who were at NSU while I was a student."



taitmartin.com

Alumni personal Web sites

Madeline Buchanan, a 1969 graduate, also enjoys the benefits of having a personal Web site with mlbuchanan.com. On this site she not only keeps education information for teachers and students, but she also posts her favorite Louisiana praline recipe and pictures from her travels.

Buchanan's favorite area of the site is her trips to Australia, New Zealand and Iceland. She will be adding vacations to Scandinavian countries and Russia, where she and her husband will travel this summer.

Buchanan, a Natchitoches native who now lives in Birmingham, Ala., retired from her job as a librarian this spring and plans to devote time to expanding and adding new areas to her site.

" I would like to add more on my family," Buchanan said. " I need to do research on my family, who was from Natchitoches, and learn more about the Jewish community there."

Buchanan began developing Web sites in 1995. She has also developed sites for her school and her church.

mlbuchanan.com

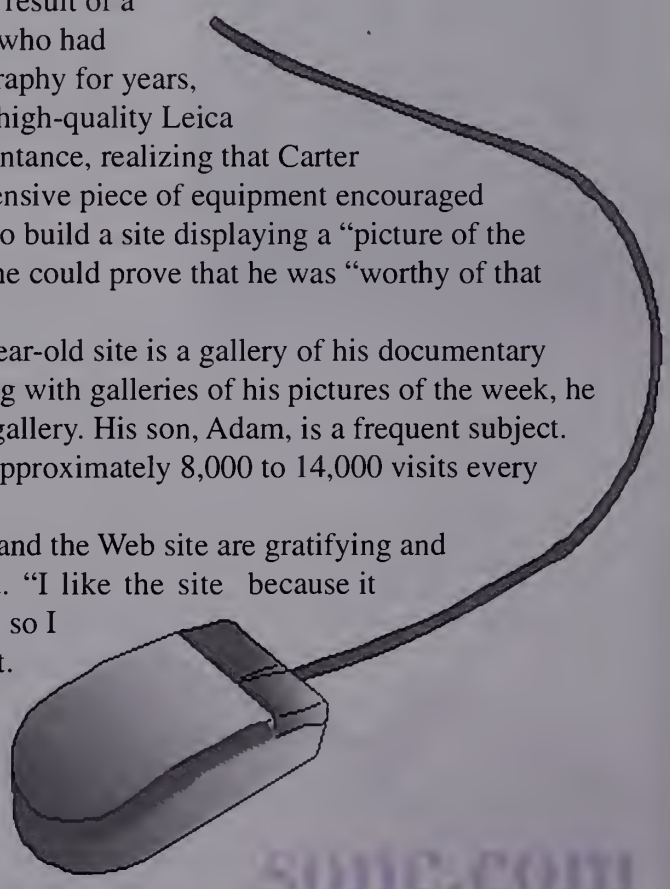
Sonny Carter's Web site, sonc.com, was the result of a challenge. Carter, who had dabbled in photography for years, has an expensive, high-quality Leica camera. An acquaintance, realizing that Carter owned a very expensive piece of equipment encouraged Carter and others to build a site displaying a "picture of the week." This way, he could prove that he was "worthy of that camera."

Carter's two-year-old site is a gallery of his documentary photography. Along with galleries of his pictures of the week, he has a Mardi Gras gallery. His son, Adam, is a frequent subject. The site receives approximately 8,000 to 14,000 visits every month.

"Photography and the Web site are gratifying and fun, " Carter said. "I like the site because it is non-commercial so I can do what I want. Nobody's dictating what I have to take pictures of. Chance dictates what my next picture will be."

Carter is a digital conservationist in the Cammie Henry Research Center at the Watson Library on NSU campus. On his off time you will see his camera serving as his favorite accessory.

"I take my camera just about everywhere," he said.



sonc.com

are a favorite way to communicate

Wrestling fans will enjoy visiting imfiredup.com to read about graduate **Deven "Aleece" McNair**. McNair, a theatre graduate, is also known as "Fire" in the wrestling arena.

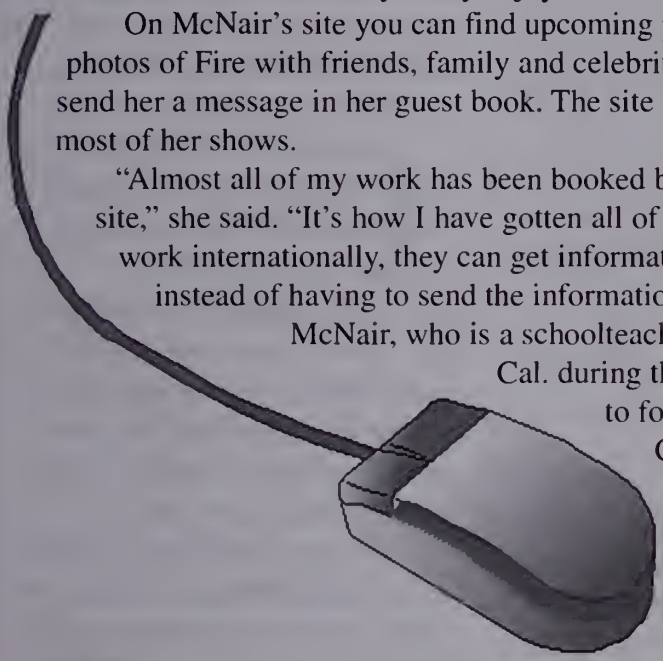
She began training as a female wrestler after a two-year period as a stuntwoman in Japan. Now she travels throughout the United States as well as in Canada and Mexico performing wrestling matches during which she is known for throwing Mardi Gras beads, never cheating and red streaks in her hair.

"Young girls are really into it," said McNair. "There aren't many female wrestlers, so they really enjoy it."

On McNair's site you can find upcoming performances and photos of Fire with friends, family and celebrities. You can also send her a message in her guest book. The site is how she books most of her shows.

"Almost all of my work has been booked because of my Web site," she said. "It's how I have gotten all of my work. Since I work internationally, they can get information from my site instead of having to send the information."

McNair, who is a schoolteacher in Van Nuys, Cal. during the week, is engaged to former NSU student Corey Rouse.



imfiredup.com

Redesigned athletics Web site to be launched August 1

The NSU Athletic Department is set to launch its new official athletics Web site on August 1, 2003. The site will remain at the same address (www.nsudemons.com) but will have a new look and numerous new features. Included on the site will be: expanded team pages with bios, photos, statistics and records, online ticket purchasing opportunities, Gary Hardamon's photo gallery, promotional schedules, merchandise, fan polls, live game broadcasts, up-to-date weather forecasts, a "former athletes" section and much more.

"We are very excited about launching this new Web site," Associate Athletics Director Jamie Matherne said. "Web sites have become such a big part of collegiate athletics and it is very important that potential student-athletes and fans worldwide can get the most up-to-date and expansive coverage of Demons sports as possible."

CP-Tel provides the NSU Athletic Department with its online services and also designed the new look. Richard Gill serves as the general manager of the company while Luke Brouillette serves as the head Web designer, including the design of nsudemons.com.

"We at the NSU Athletic Department would like to thank CP-Tel and its staff for all its hard work in putting this new site together," NSU Athletic Director Greg Burke said. "We truly admire our partnership and hope that it can continue for years to come."

Groundbreaking for Wellness Center takes place

An eagerly anticipated project that will have a major impact on student life at Northwestern State University took another step forward at the groundbreaking ceremony for its $6.9 million Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center which will replace the current Intramural Building.

"I kept hearing SGA (Student Government Association) presidents say they were going to do something about the Intramural Building, so when I had a chance I was going to make it happen."
—Alicia Thomas

Work has started on the three-floor Center which will include free weights, cardiovascular exercise equipment, an indoor walking track, racquetball courts, a gym, aerobics workout area, staff offices, a computer lab and snack bar. The projected completion date is the fall of 2004.

Funding for the Center was provided by NSU students who approved a $75 per semester assessment fee in 1998.

"I kept hearing SGA (Student Government Association) presidents say they were going to do something about the Intramural Building, so when I had a chance I was going to make it happen," said former SGA President Alicia Thomas who started groundwork for the project during her term in the 1997-98 academic year. "The building was falling apart. I heard the complaints. The students have a sense of ownership in this building. They can be proud of what they did."

Thomas spent most of her term gathering information on similar projects at universities in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. The decision was made to renovate the current IM building instead of constructing a complete new facility to take advantage of existing infrastructure and save money for NSU students.

The assessment fee was passed under the administration of Luke Dowden, who succeeded Thomas as president.

"The students are going to see what they voted on in 1998," said Dowden, who is now the admissions counselor for adult learners at NSU. "They wanted to make wellness a priority."

NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb credited Thomas and her predecessors with keeping the project moving.

"I work with each SGA president to try to accomplish one major goal," said Webb. "This will help Northwestern and its students in many ways. The Wellness Center will promote exercise and good nutrition, which will help those who use this facility to be better, healthier students.

Those who have attended Northwestern over the past four years along with current students can point to this facility and say that they were the ones who took the initiative and made it happen."

Building on NSU Leesville/Fort Polk campus named for Owen

Northwestern State University formally named the administration building on its Leesville-Fort Polk campus for Chester Creighton Owen. Owen, the longtime executive director of NSU's Leesville/Fort Polk campus, died in November 2002.

Approximately 200 friends, colleagues, students and family members honored and remembered Owen at a ceremony held on the Leesville-Fort Polk campus. A memorial was also dedicated in his honor.

Owen had a long, distinguished career as an educator in Vernon Parish. He taught English for many years in the school system before serving the Vernon Parish School Board as a guidance counselor, supervisor of instruction, director of curriculum and superintendent of Vernon Parish Schools. After retiring as superintendent of schools, he was an adjunct and graduate advisor at NSU Leesville/Fort Polk before becoming the campus' executive director in 1993.

"He was an important role model for me. Mr. Owen was my friend and it is an honor to be part of this ceremony," said Dr. Larry Monk, acting executive director of NSU's Leesville/Fort Polk campus, who first met Owen as a student in his English class. "He was someone who lived life to the fullest. All of our lives were enriched because he crossed our paths."

Throughout Owen's life, being an educator was much more than just a job to him.

"Nothing except his family meant more than education," said daughter Mae Ann Ledet. "He never did anything for glory and would get aggravated about going to ceremonies to receive honors. He wanted to do things for the students and the teachers."

Ledet said Owen's secret of success was easy to find.

"His secret to success was his heart. All that he did came from his heart," she said. "What he did was because of his love for the people around him."

Another quality which made Owen stand out was his loyalty

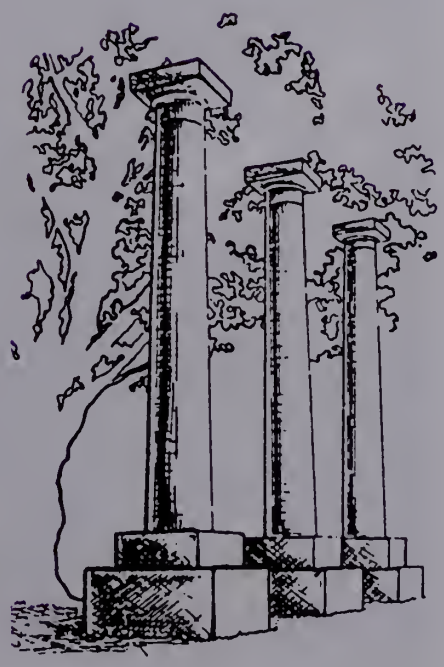
"Loyalty was one of the things he taught," said son Lt. Col. Charles Owen. "He was loyal to a lot of things – the business of education, the people of education, his community. He felt very deeply about Leesville, Vernon Parish, the state of Louisiana and his country."

As a community activist, Owen was president of several organizations including the local PTA, Louisiana Schools Supervisors Association, Leesville/Vernon Parish Chamber of Commerce (Twice), Leonidas Polk Chapter, Association of the United States Army, Owen was also involved in organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, the Boys and Girls Club and the Governor's Military Advisory Commission.

He was a charter member of the NSU Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, life member; Sigma Chi Fraternity, member; Sons of American Revolution; Vernon Arts Council and was a Mason, Shriner and a veteran having served in the United States.

"I knew when he called me there was a problem," said State Rep. John Smith of Leesville. "He was more tenacious and caring about solving that problem. He meant a great deal to me and meant everything to this campus. We can never replace him, but we can always remember him."

Smith introduced a bill to permanently name the administration building on the Leesville/Fort Polk campus for Owen.



Book captures history of Natchitoches Christmas Festival

The first book has been written about an annual event intertwined with life in Natchitoches — the Natchitoches Christmas Festival. The book, "A Diamond Jubilee: Celebrating 75 years of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival," was written by Main Street manager and public relations coordinator for the City of Natchitoches Courtney Hornsby and Northwestern professor of educational technology at Dr. Ron McBride.

According to Hornsby, the idea for the book came about when planning for last year's festival.

"We were looking at ways to celebrate the 75th anniversary," said Hornsby, a NSU alumnus. "Not only did we want to tell how the Natchitoches Christmas Festival got started, we wanted to show how it has shaped the community and all of the traditions that have evolved because of the festival."

"There was such little documentation about the festival other than occasional stories in the local paper, at least through the '80's and prior to the national attention," said McBride. "Furthermore, it was the 75th anniversary so the book was a natural."

Hornsby and McBride decided to do a history on the festival using information they could find but also included some interviews which they thought would provide not only legitimacy to the book but would add "color and flavor" with a personal touch.

"Many of the original planners were deceased so we relied on relatives such as Mrs. Solomon," said McBride. "She provided a wealth of first hand knowledge and has a wonderful scrapbook about the early festival years."

Mrs. Solomon's husband, Charles Solomon, was a city utility employee who was known at "Mr. Christmas Lights" for building most of the set pieces along Cane River Lake.

The Natchitoches Christmas Festival has been named as one of the top 100 events in North America by the America Bus Association.

"What makes it unique is the Natchitoches community," said McBride. "New York has its Macy's Parade, Pasadena has the Rose Parade but Natchitoches has the Christmas Festival which is on par to those when you consider that it is not just a one day 'happening' but actually a six-week celebration."

The book was made possible through a grant from the Louisiana Endowment for Humanities.

For information about obtaining a copy of the book, please call Hornsby at (318) 357-3823.

Demon football standout Charlie Tolar dies at age 65

Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame member Charlie Tolar, a record-shattering football star at Natchitoches High School and an All-American at Northwestern State who won All-Pro honors with the Houston Oilers, April 28 after a brief battle with cancer. He was 65.

Tolar, whose 5-foot-6, 220-pound frame made him a standout figure in the old American Football League, was voted by fans to one of two running back slots on the Oilers' 30th Anniversary Dream Team. Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell was the other running back elected. The team was comprised of 25 stars from Houston's first three decades of pro football.

He was inducted in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.

Tolar carried several nicknames, including "Tank" and "The Human Bowling Ball," throughout his playing days. With Houston, he played with such stars as Pro Football Hall of Fame member George Blanda, All-Pro receiver and fellow Northwestern State alum Charlie Hennigan, and former LSU Heisman Trophy winner Billy Cannon.

In the offseason, he developed a friendship with internationally-known oil well firefighter Red Adair, who hired Tolar in 1962 to work alongside him around the world.

Tolar was named to AFL All-Star teams in 1961-1963 and was described in the 1965 Oilers' media guide as "the solid favorite of Houston pro football fandom and one of the AFL's most colorful and exciting performers ... the bearer of more nicknames than any half-dozen players in the league."

Tolar won back-to-back All-State honors at Natchitoches High School and ran for a state-record 1,897 yards and 23 touchdowns in his senior season. After signing with LSU, he transferred to Northwestern in his hometown and was twice the Gulf States Conference "Most Valuable Player" for the Demons.

At Northwestern, he set scoring records for single-season points (79), career rushing touchdowns (29) and career rushing yards per game (75.7) that stood for more than 40 years. He still ranks fourth all-time at NSU in career scoring (182 points) and eighth in career rushing yards (2,194) while leading the GSC in scoring and rushing three years in a row.

Donations can be made to the Charlie Tolar Memorial Scholarship Fund administered by the NSU Athletic Department. For information on donations, contact Charlie Vienne at (318) 357-4295 or at cvienne@nsudemons.com via e-mail.

Alumnus Foster Campbell Elected to Public Service Commission

Louisiana State Senator Foster Campbell was elected to the North Louisiana seat on the state Public Service Commission in November 2002.

Campbell, NSU Class of 1970, vowed to strengthen the commission with his business background and legislative experience on consumer issues.

"The Public Service Commission is the most important regulatory body in Louisiana," Campbell said. "It oversees rates for electricity, water, transportation and other utilities. It has a powerful impact on the pocketbooks of the people and the ability to advance and promote a better economy. It can help people build their businesses, succeed and promote employment."

"My background as a businessman and my legislative record as a consumer advocate qualify me for the PSC."

Campbell noted that Public Service Commission enjoys a proud history of strong leadership. Jimmie Davis, Huey Long and John McKeithen have held the North Louisiana PSC seat.

"These men acted with purpose and left a legacy of service to the people," he said. "Today, many people don't know who their public service commissioner is, much less that the PSC plays a vital role in their lives and livelihoods."

Campbell owns two insurance agencies in Bossier City: Campbell Insurance and Premier Insurance. He also operates a cattle farm at Elm Grove, his home in south Bossier Parish, and is the father of six children ranging in age from 11 to 26.

Raised in Bossier City, Campbell has a degree in business administration. He began his professional career as a schoolteacher in Bossier Parish public schools.

First elected to the Senate in 1975, Campbell was re-elected to the District 36 seat six times by the people of Bossier, Bienville, Claiborne and Webster parishes.

Among his political accomplishments are a three-year fight to return the state's rural electric co-operatives to OSC rate regulation, lowering utility rates for one million Louisiana residents; and the 2001 passage of the new "DO Not Call" program to restrict unwanted sales calls at home.

Campbell is the author of the legislation placing $1 billion of the state's Tobacco Settlement in trust for local schools. He modeled the Educational Excellence Fund after the Bossier Educational Excellence Fund, which Campbell created from Louisiana Downs racetrack revenues in the mid-1980s. BEEF now has a balance of $10 million.

"As Public Service Commissioner," Campbell said, "I will continue to be an independent voice."

Alumni Gatherings

NSU Recruiter and alumnus Jamilla Maxie ('00) poses with hosts of the New Orleans recruiting reception Bill Sirmon, Johnny Carmouche and Edie Sirmon.

Ricky ('85) and Julie Messina ('89) Walmsley visit with NSU recruiter and alumnus Rocky Procell ('01) while hosting an alumni/recruiting reception in Covington.

Dan ('57) and Lilly Chase opened their home to future NSU students with a Baton Rouge reception.

Joyce Shuele ('46) Theophile Scott ('43) and Melba Jeane Morris ('69) visited at the Shreveport alumni reception at Savoie's.

Katherine Watkins Alexander ('98) and husband Mark ('96) piled their plates with crawfish at the annual Dallas crawfish boil.

Sherry Anderson Thompson ('77), Ed Thompson ('76) met Johnette ('01) and Chris ('01) Monoghan during the Dallas alumni gathering.

The Natchitoches Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors held their annual scholarship golf tournament to benefit an NSU business major. Shown are Director of Alumni Affairs Chris Maggio, Jim Sandefur and Kim Ward of the NAIF, scholarship recipient Jim Adams, Shae Perilou and David Kees of the NAIF and Director of Instutional Advancement Tony Gustwick.

Caroll ('67) and Susan Long hosted Texas alumni and futur students with a reception in Longview.

James and Helen ('79) Powell, hosts of the Shrevepor recruiting reception, visit with NSU recruiter Erin Lon Drago ('00).

Bobby Adams ('96), Yvette Stringfield ('77) and Lance Sco ('95) met with other alumni at Barecca's in New Orleans.

Richard Armstrong ('01), Dana LeBlanc ('02), Gan Germillion ('99) and Clarence Matthews ('96) visited wit other New Orleans alumni at a Barecca's reception.

losts of the Leesville recruiting reception are Gene ('63 & '70) and Martha Koury and Martha ('97) and Matt ('95) Koury.

reveport alumni Jennifer Whitford ('92), Eve Cox ('93), Jennifer ake ('94), Karen Spillman Miller ('92), M'Lissa Peters ('99), Leigh-nn Tabor ('92), Denis Deville Broadway ('93) and Cindy Cranford erzog ('93) gathered at Savoie's for a reunion this spring.

ff ('74) and Frances Conine, hosted of the Natchitoches recruiting eption in their home.

and Mrs. Michael ('95) Simoneaux visited with other fellow music icators at a reception held in conjunction with TMEA.

ttending the NSU Basketball Reunion on February 15 were Jerry yrd ('57) of Shreveport; Bill Stewart ('60) of Issaquah, 'ashington; James Stewart ('71) of Doyline, Jimmy Leach ('60) Florien and Joe Green ('58) of Harrisonburg.

Velma Knowles ('34) enjoyed reminiscing with other Texas alumni at the Longview alumni/recruiting reception.

Ephen ('51) and Vera Macaluso and Brenda Webb enjoyed visiting with other alumni during a reception at Barecca's in New Orleans.

Mike ('86) and Susanne Knotts hosted the Bossier recruiting reception this spring.

Stuart ('98) and Jennifer Aby ('97) Archer recently hosted the Alumni/Recruiting reception in Lafayette.

Marlene ('00) and Mike ('72) Sawrie once again opened their home to future NSU students by hosting a reception in Alexandria.

Lenn ('75) and Danny Prince hosted Ruston alumni and prospective students with a reception this spring.

Barbara and Pete ('66) Seymour visit with Gloria Martin Hewlett ('74) and Bob Hewlett during Dallas alumni gathering this spring.

Tim Thompson ('76), Kay Head, Roalnd Champagne ('75) Gil Beck ('74) Pam Beck ('73), Kelle Head ('01) and Brad Jones ('98) met with other alumni at the Shreveport alumni reception.

NSU alumnus on front lines of nation's public health

Somewhere there's a Northwestern alumnus who has no idea of the impact she had on a fellow student's career and ultimately the nation's safety.

Northwestern graduate J. Michael (Mike) Miller ultimately became one of the nation's top clinical microbiologists, but his career choice was initially swayed by his spot in the registration line.

"I was standing in line in the gym to register and there was a cute red-headed girl in front of me whom heard say she was majoring in microbiology," said Miller. "I figured that sounded good. I liked science, but growing up in Winnfield, I hadn't heard of microbiology."

With the background he received at Northwestern, Miller has built a successful career and recently received the bioMerieux-Sonnenwirth Award for leadership and innovation in clinical microbiology, the highest national award for a clinical microbiologist. The award is given annually by the American Society for Microbiology, recognizing an individual who has provided great influence and support for the clinical microbiology profession.

Miller is the chief of the Laboratory Response Branch of Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

"In this position, I am responsible for ensuring that the nation's public health laboratories are prepared and ready for any bioterrorism incident by having in place in Laboratory Response Network Laboratories standard operational protocols, reagents and processes for any potential agent of bioterrorism," said Miller.

Miller earned a bachelor's and master's degree at NSU, a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and earned Diplomate status in the American Board of Medical Microbiology.

After joining the CDC in 1976, Miller spent his first 12 years as an instructor of public health microbiology procedures traveling around the world teaching diagnostic microbiology. For 13 years, he was director of the WHO collaborating center for Staphylococcus bacteriophage typing and director of the National Kelbsiella Serotyping Network and was founding father of the National Laboratory Training Network. Miller has authored 83 published, peer reviewed papers, 19 book chapters, three books and 12 CDC publications. His books are considered standards in many laboratories around the world.

When last year's anthrax outbreak took place Miller was one of two laboratorians sent to Washington D.C. to work directly with environmental specimens taken from contaminated post office sites.

"During the outbreak, more than 150,000 specimens were submitted for sampling to laboratories throughout the U.S.," said Miller. "I also head a group of 25 CDC laboratory specialists who are certified in hazardous materials procedures and who are available to go out in the full gear that look like space suits to collect specimens for analysis."

The attention paid to the anthrax outbreak is an example of the increased awareness of public health issues after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S.

"The public is much more aware of public health issues and of issues involving their own health than in the past. We are more concerned about our health and medical details than ever before," said Miller. "When an emergency happens in this field of bioterrorism it is something that has to be addressed immediately not in weeks or months."

Northwestern was the place where Miller's interest in science blossomed.

He was influenced by Dr. Rene Bienvenu, chairman of the Department of Microbiology who went on to be NSU's president, and Dr. Paul Thompson. Miller also worked closely with graduate students Benny Barrage and Dr. Jerry Allen, who is now a member of Northwestern's faculty.

"Benny and Jerry encouraged me and they showed me that microbiology can be interesting, if not plain fun," he said.

Miller also credited Dean Leonard O. Nichols, who was faculty sponsor of Blue Key for many years, and Dr. Bill Shaw, who he called "the most influential of anyone on campus" even though Shaw was not a faculty member in his major area.

He is married to the former Norma (Ginger) Foshee of Mansfield, who was Miss Northwestern State College in 1968.

"My time at Northwestern was, and will continue to be, extremely important to my life choices," said Miller. "I began to see the real world that I was about to join and in this transition I was surrounded by terrific friends and faculty who were interested in me.

I loved everything about this place...the campus, the activities, the people, the short hike to downtown, sports, the Baptist Student Union, ...most importantly it led me to the one passion in my life that tops the others...my wife, and eventually my family. I have learned that we are who we are because of God and other people; and I am truly grateful that so many of the 'other people' were there at Northwestern."

New Scholarships available for NSU students

Alumni and friends of Northwestern State University along with area businesses have taken steps to ensure the continued growth of Northwestern by establishing scholarships through the NSU Foundation. Ten new scholarships have been set up recently to benefit students at the university.

"We are grateful to all those who care about Northwestern and have been willing to help our students gain an education," said NSU president Dr. Randall J. Webb. "These private scholarships allow us to attract and retain outstanding students who will go on to successful careers after earning their degrees. Many of these recipients will remember what generous donors did for them and will also give something back to the university."

The following scholarships have been set up:

Natchitoches Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors Scholarship – This annual scholarship was established by Natchitoches area insurance agents and financial advisors. The recipient will be a business major.

Business and Professional Women Scholarship – A non-traditional student at the sophomore level or higher will benefit from this scholarship established by a Natchitoches civic club. Preference is a business major from Natchitoches Parish,

People's State Bank Scholarship – This scholarship will be awarded to a business major preferably from Natchitoches or Sabine parish;

Edwin B. Dyess Memorial Endowed Scholarship – This scholarship was set up by Billie Dyess, Dan Dyess and Desiree Duhon Dyess in honor of Edwin B. Dyess. Dan Dyess is a 1977 graduate of NSU while Desiree Duhon Dyess is a 1997 graduate of Northwestern. The scholarship is for entering freshmen lasting until graduation; pre-law or business majors from Sabine Parish.

Ellis and Melva Juanita Martinez Coutee Endowed Scholarship — for students at any level of study in accounting, mathematics or the bachelor's program in nursing. Preference for students from Natchitoches, Rapides, Caddo, Bossier or Sabine parishes or the greater Baton Rouge area. This is the second endowed scholarship established by Ellis Coutee, a 1960 graduate of Northwestern and Melva Juanita Martinez Coutee, a 1958 graduate.

Kenneth I. Durr Scholarship – the endowed scholarship was set by Dr. Kenneth I. Durr, a 1939 graduate of Louisiana State Normal College, who also was a faculty member in business for several years. The preference is for an accounting major, but a business major may also be a recipient;

Woodmen of the World Lodge #207 Scholarship – Endowed scholarship awarded for one year to a freshman. Preference is to a recipient who has a family member in Lodge #207. The scholarship was set up by a Natchitoches civic organization.

Rader – Osborne Endowed Scholarship – the scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student in nursing for either one semester of one year. Preference is given to an out-of-state student.

Bank of Montgomery Endowed Scholarship – The scholarship will be given to a freshman business major from Natchitoches, Winn or Grant parishes. Preference is based on financial need and involvement in various activities;

First Federal Bank of Louisiana Scholarship – Business students at any level will benefit from this scholarship set up by this Louisiana bank with offices in Natchitoches.

Three honored by CSO

Two former and one current Northwestern faculty and staff members will be honored by the NSU Catholic Student Organization and Holy Cross Church at a reception and mass on Homecoming weekend, Oct. 25 and 26.

Dr. Marietta LeBreton, professor of History and Mr. Walter Ledet, longtime administrator and coach, will be recognized as the charter members of the Catholic Student Organization Laypersons of the Year. Mrs. Elise James, a former faculty member and Director of Alumni Affairs at NSU will be honored posthumously.

"These three individuals have been tremendous examples of people who have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of countless university students as University employees and as parishioners of Holy Cross Church," said Father Dan Cook. "The Catholic Student Organization recognizes their known and unknown contributions to the faith life of many Catholic students over the five years."

LeBreton, Ledet and James will be recognized at a reception on the morning of Homecoming, October 25 and will be honored at the first annual Alumni Mass at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26. All family, friends, alumni students of the three honorees are invited to attend both events.

For more details, contact Cook at Holy Cross Church at 318-352-2615.

Join the Graduate "N" Club

The Northwestern State University Graduate "N" Club is comprised of former Northwestern athletes who support the university, its athletes and athletic programs. If you are a lettered athlete and would like to become a member of the Graduate "N" Club, - please contact Gil Gilson at (318) 677-3141 or via e-mail at gilson@nsula.edu.

NSU vs. Tulane Catch the Excitement

The NSU Alumni Association is sponsoring a weekend in New Orleans for NSU alumni and friends. Spend a fabulous weekend with other NSU fans and cheer for the Demon football team as they play Tulane University at Tad Gormley Stadium with a 7pm kickoff.

The Alumni Association will host a tailgate party two hours prior to game time. Make your reservations for the tailgate party by calling (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486. Call the NSU Ticket Office for seating in the Northwestern section at (318) 357-4268.

Special rates have been set at two hotels. Rates for the Homewood Suites are $109 per night. Rates for Le Pavillon Hotel are $119 per night with a two-night minimum. Make reservations by calling the Homewood Suites (504) 581-9133 or Le Pavillon Hotel (504) 581-3111 or (800) 535-9095.

For more information call the NSU Alumni Association (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486.

2003 Northwestern State Demons Football Schedule

Aug.	30	Jackson State
Sept.	6	at Tulane
Sept.	13	Delaware State
Sept.	20	at Louisiana-Monroe
Sept.	27	at Northern Iowa
Oct.	4	Oklahoma Panhandle State (Family Day)
Oct.	11	Southeastern Louisiana
Oct.	18	*at Southwest Texas State
Oct.	25	*Nicholls State (Homecoming)
Nov.	1	open date
Nov.	8	*at Sam Houston State
Nov.	15	*at McNeese State
Nov.	22	*Stephen F. Austin
Nov.	29	First round, NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs
Dec.	6	Second round, NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs
Dec.	13	Semifinals, NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs
Dec.	19	Championship Game, NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs

* Southland Conference games

Angel Vitte Huval

Most students consider getting lost on their first day of class a pretty good indication of more bad things to come. This turned out to the be the exact opposite for one NSU alumnus. For Angel Vitte Huval, she stumbled upon a career that has ultimately changed her life.

Huval transferred to NSU from the University of Southwest Louisiana as a psychology major. She got lost trying to find the psychology department and ended up walking into the social work department.

"I had a wonderful conversation with Mr. Malcolm Braudaway about my future and he said I should consider becoming a social worker," said Huval. "He was so proud of being a social worker. After we talked, I changed my major to social work the very next day!"

Huval says all of her professors at NSU played a major role in her life, teaching her how to become a confident, competent social worker. She also attributes the social work curriculum for preparing her to the handle administrative responsibilities of a social worker and becoming a strong advocate in the helping profession.

"Mr. Braudaway was my role model," said Huval. "He thought I was very talented and his encouragement made me want to do my best. I think he would be very proud that he has made such an impression on me that how I have accomplished so much as a social worker."

In fact, Huval has accomplished quite a bit since graduating from NSU in 1994. She was the program director for the Natchitoches Diversion Program from 1994-1995 and she went on to earn her master's from Grambling State University in 1995. In 1996, she began working at St. Martin Parish School-Based Health Centers where she is currently a coordinator and social worker for St. Martin Parish.

Seven years ago, Huval noticed an increased number of students in therapy. She decided that in addition to having group counseling, the students would participate in individual and community acts of kindness. Huval developed the Random Acts of Kindness Project.

"I wanted them to experience the gift of giving back to others and the feeling of self-worth and pride," said Huval. "After each weekly group session, students are individually assigned an act of kindness to perform at school, home or in the community."

Each year, Random Acts of Kindness participates in a community project such as singing Christmas carols at nursing homes, making ornaments or put on a play. This year the students sold hot chocolate and donated the money to the community "Neighbors in Need" project that helps community members financially with their electricity and water bills.

Huval also developed her own corporation, Youth Choices, Inc. She says she started the corporation because she felt students in rural areas needed more services. Her goal for the program is to provide youth with education to help them experience pride in their community and keep them from entering the juvenile court system.

"I offer parenting classes, youth and adolescent anger management classes, mentoring, teen pregnancy support groups and a youth summer day camp that allows students to express themselves 'therapeutically' through art work, crafts, outside play and field trips," said Huval. "I also contract with the 16th Judicial District Attorney's office and other local law enforcement agencies by providing parenting skills and anger management classes."

Huval says the results from these two programs are quite immeasurable.

"The best results to me are watching the students have ownership of the good deeds they perform in their community and watching how it shapes their own personal lives," said Huval. "I think this is how they get in touch with their spirituality which in my opinion is more important than any therapeutic tools I can give them."

Due to her accomplishments in social work she was the 2001 recipient of the Woodman of the World Scholarship; 2001 recipient of the 16th Annual Career Achievement Award; 2002 recipient of the Women of Excellence award and most recently she was chosen as the Lafayette Regional Representative for National Association of Social Workers.

"Being a social worker is the most spiritual experience a person can have," said Huval. "I receive so much more than I give. I knew if I received the education and direction I needed, I could do great things. I received both of those things at NSU. I can honestly say I have found my purpose in life."

N

1935
Ethel M. Williams Hill was a fashion illustrator and instructor at Dallas Academy of Fine Arts. She lives in Athens, Texas.

1939
Alva A. Cook is retired and lives in Carthage, Texas

1945
Marjorie Shirley Barre' is a retired physical therapist. She lives in Dallas.

1953
Genevieve Marmande Wathen is a broker associate. She lives in Dallas.

1954
Carol Lynn Smith Sandifer is a retired schoolteacher. She lives in west Texas.

1955
Dr. J. Wanzer Drane has been selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Heath Behavior.

1960
Nell Campbell Adams retired from the Office of Public Health as a medical social worker. She is married and lives in West Monroe.

1962
Carroll Voyght Bradford is a retired teacher. He is married and lives in Dentle.

1963
Rosa Charlyne Creger is a retired anesthetist. She lives in Shreveport.

1966
Mary Nell Lott is employed at NSU as a coordinator for the Space Science Group in the College of Science & Technology.

Dr. Bettie Moore Meachum received the Excellence (Teacher of the Year) Award for the academic year 2002-2003 for the Dallas County Community College District. She has been a professor of Psychology for 27 years at Cedar Valley College in Dallas.

1970
Travis Lynn Bolton is a retired auditor. He is married and lives in Simpson.

Col. "Dick" (Donald Richard) Moore is a retired air force pilot. He works for American Airlines, is married and lives in Austin.

1974
Bobby Dale Shields is the President/CEO of University Club of Caddo Parish, Inc. He is married and lives in Shreveport.

1976
Ricky Swift Thomas is the owner of Thomas & Associates Attorney Search. He is married and lives in Plano, Texas.

Deborah Ann Whitney Cloud is employed the Office of Family Support as a social service analyst supervisor. She is married and lives in Benton.

1977
Denise Davenport Wood is an assistant principal at Airline High School. She is married to Ken Wood ('77) and lives in Bossier City.

Neda Arleen Nelms Robertson is a Title 1 Facilitator at Hornbeck High School. She is married and lives in Hornbeck.

Brenda Cheryl Collins Bellemin is a math department chair and teacher at Parkview Baptist School in Baton Rouge. She is married and lives in Port Allen.

1978
Roscoe Lewis works at Project Associates Inc. as a staff designer and contractor for Shell Oil. Company. He is a justice of the peace for the 8th district in Jefferson Parish. He is married and lives in Kenner.

1979
Cynthia Dianne Braxton Briggs is the office manager at Legal Services of North Louisiana. She is married and lives in Clarence.

Becky Lynn Guidry Ruddell is a 4th grade reading teacher for Pine Tree Independent School District. She is married to Terry M. Ruddell ('79) and lives in Longview.

Rebecca Faye Bryant Lavespere is a retired teacher. She is married and lives in Montgomery.

Terry Mac Ruddell is a warehouse manager for Baxter Sales. He is married to Becky L. Ruddell ('79) and lives in Longview.

1981
Dennis Tyler is a senior estimator photography coordinator at Haggin Marketing Inc. He lives in San Francisco.

1984
Vern Guidroz is the program director for independent living at Cane River Children Services. She lives in Natchitoches.

1985
Dawn Taylor Branch Tyson is an instructional coordinator for Caddo Parish School Board. She is married and lives in Stonewall.

1989
Rhonda Nelms Ruddick is employed by the Ouachita Parish District Attorney's Office. She is married and lives in West Monroe.

1990
Elizabeth J. Matthews-King is a human resource manager at Randolph Air Force Base. She is married and lives in Schertz, Texas.

1991
Kervin Donell Campbell is employed by the DeSoto Parish School Board as a teacher. He lives in Manfield.

Lori Kristine Perkins Tassin is a consultant and branch advisor at Independent Longaberger. She is married and lives in Luling.

William Dowers is a vice-consul and works at the United States Embassy in Seoul, South Korea.

Walter Brett Harris is a software engineer at GHG Corporation. He is married and lives in Seabrook, Texas.

1992
Joe Brister is a medical lab technician. He lives in Houston, Mo.

Alan Omo is the flight commander for the 21st space wing at Peterson AFB. He is married to Stacey Taff Omo ('92) and lives in Monument, Colo.

1993
Denise Dupree' Deville Broadway is an office manager at DB Broadway Transport, Inc. She is married and lives in Many.

Daniel Craig Duplechien is a senior project consultant at USC Consulting Group. He is married and lives in New York.

N

Bart Stagg is a technical consultant for Accurate Industries of Louisiana. He is married and lives in Pineville.

1994

April Comeaux Walker is a homemaker. She is married and lives in Jennings.

Angel Vitte Huval is a licensed clinical social worker. She is the coordinator of all school-based health centers in St. Martin Parish and started her own corporation named Youth C.H.O.I.C.E.S, Inc., create healthy options to help families.

1995

F. Steven Hines is an accountant at Hines, Jackson & Hines. He is married and lives in Natchitoches.

Martin Ryan Arthur is a rehab technology supplier for National Seating and Mobility, Inc. He is married and lives in Spring, Texas.

1996

Kelley Kendall Mims is the director of client operations at Larry Thompson Associates. She lives in Garland, Texas.

Linda M. Rhodes is a therapist at Child and Youth Development Center. She lives in Jonesboro, Ark.

Rhonda Anita Rachal Carter is the co-owner and a registered nurse at Hope Hospice. She is married and lives in Cloutierville.

Pam Huckaby North is the co-owner and a RN, DON, Administrator at Hope Hospice. She is married and lives in Natchitoches.

Rita Kathleen Salard is a paralegal at Ford Law Firm. She is married and lives in Lena.

1997

Stephen Fleury is the controller and business manager at Barron, Heinberg & Brocato Architect & Engineers. He is married and lives in Pineville.

1999

Randy Morvant is the collections manager at Tower Credit Inc. He is married and lives in Gonzales.

Brandy Ann McConathy Pitre is a 3rd grade teacher and new teacher recruiter at Wedgewood Elementary in East Baton Rouge. She is married and lives in Baton Rouge.

David Balcer is the box office manager at American Airlines Center. He lives in Dallas

Patrick Worsham is the director of instrumental ministries at Forest Cove Baptist Church. He is married and lives in Kingwood, Texas.

Jana Lynn Whitehead is the community services specialist and case manager at the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. She lives in Pineville.

Brennan Peter Mack is a pilot for Gulf South Aviation. He lives in Kenner.

Sarah Jean Webb Carline is a veterinary technician. She is married to Craig J. Carline ('99) and lives in Bloomfield, Conn.

Sharon Lynn Curtis Arbaugh is a receptionist and office assistant at S.S. Marine & Outdoors. She is married and lives in Benton.

Gary Humble is an associate pastor at Harvest Christian Center. He is married and lives in Turlock, Calif.

2000

Scott Alan Gottreu is the Web administrator for the Space Science Group at NSU. He lives in Natchitoches.

Branden Delano Johnson is a qualified mental health professional at Sabine Valley Center MHMR. He lives in Longview, Texas.

Tricia DeAun Hrapmann is the corporate sales manager at LePavillon Hotel in New Orleans. She lives in Gretna.

Julie Anne Duncan works at Brentwood Psychiatric Hospital. She lives in Shreveport.

Crystal Nichole Boggs Ryan is a fourth grade teacher at Walker Intermediate School in Fort Knox. She is married and lives in Radcliff, Ky.

2001

Kerry Melissa Anne Garrigan Johnson is a graduate assistant at NSU. She is married to Joseph Brett Johnson ('01) and lives in Alexandria.

Brett Bailey is a contract screenwriter. He lives in Plano, Texas and Los Angeles.

Melissa Star White is currently teaching English and coaching cheerleading at Marksville High School.

2002

William Eilers is an associate appraiser at Kevin D. Hilbert and Associates. He lives in New Orleans.

Allison Bulot is a strategic research analyst at Atlantia Offshore Limited. She lives in Houston.

Amber Renee Moreland is the site coordinator for NSU Space Science. She is married to Ronald D. Williams, Jr. ('01) and lives in Erath.

Lindsay Lucas is an executive sales assistant for GunnAllen Financial. She lives in Tampa.

Sarah H. Lee Mitcham is an emergency room RN at Christus Jasper Memorial Hospital. She lives in Anacoco.

In Memory

Thaddeus Ferrell Bailes, Leesville
Mary Ellen Cormack, Houston, February 19, 2003
Eulava Sledge Dupree, Baton Rouge, March 10, 2003
Marie S. Kelso, Galveston, Texas, April 29, 2003
Cecil Owens, February 11, 2003
Reba Ann Parrott, Zwolle, February 26, 2003,
Pearl Lilley Cook Pugh, February 16, 2003
Denton Shell, Winnfield, April 6, 2003
Doris Shell, Winnfield, February, 10, 2003
Anna Louise Rogillio Stewart, Ruston, January 15, 2003
Burnell Allen Webb, Coushatta, February 7, 2003

'35 Eulava Sledge Dupree, Baton Rouge, March 10, 2003
'35 Allen E. Hood, Chatham, February 21, 2003
'39 Dudley W. Hillman, Lockport, February 23, 2003
'43 Corinne Harper Blalock, Alexandria, March 21, 2003
'58 Charlie Tolar, League City, Texas, April 28, 2003
'66 Emmett Hendricks, Natchitoches, May 18, 2003
'03 Glen Denning DeVanie, Alexandria, April 2, 2003

Looking back

Tri Sigma Celebrates 75 years at Northwestern

In 1928, 24 young women began a journey of which many women would soon follow. Seventy-five years and almost 1700 members later, the Alpha Zeta chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma celebrates a rich tradition and heritage on Northwestern's campus.

Before becoming a chapter of Tri Sigma, the women were members of the Phi Upsilon social sorority, but soon realized the advantages of chartering with a national organization. They officially became the Alpha Zeta chapter on February 17, 1928.

In the beginning, Tri Sigma shared a two-story frame building with other Greek organizations on campus. They each had a room that they could decorate and furnish to make their own. Finally, they were able to purchase a lodge on campus in 1942. They now meet in their lodge on Greek Hill.

The Alpha Zeta chapter of Tri Sigma will celebrate its 75th anniversary during Homecoming activities this fall. The Natchitoches Alumni Chapter and the Alpha Zeta Collegiate Chapter will sponsor reunion events.

Guess Who?

Can you guess the names of these former Tri Sigma officers? If so, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486. The first five people to call with the correct answers will win a prize!

Alumni Information Update

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Class Notes" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date_____ SSN:_____

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.)_____
Please Circle
Last First Middle Maiden

Current address:_____

City:_____State:_____ Zip:_____

Phone:_____E-Mail:_____

NSU undergraduate degree(s):_____Year of graduation:_____

NSU graduate degree(s):_____ Year of graduation:_____

During which years did you attend NSU?_____

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU?_____

_____

_____

_____

Place of employment _____

Job title:_____Work phone:_____

Spouse's name:_____

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? ____Yes ____ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) _____Year of graduation_____

Spouse's graduate degree (s) _____Year of graduation_____

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students? Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

_____

_____

Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:

Director of Admissions
Northwestern
State University
Room 103, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-4503
800-426-3754 (Louisiana)
800-327-1903 (out of state)

Director of Financial Aid
Northwestern
State University
Room 109, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5961

Athletic Director
Northwestern
State University
Room 101C
Athletic Fieldhouse
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5251

Northwestern State University's Class of 1953 celebrated their Golden Jubilee as part of the university's spring commencement. Approximately 50 members of the class had lunch and took a bus tour of the city and before being honored at commencement where they each received a second diploma. The next day, each member was inducted in the'"50-Plus Club," as part of the group's annual luncheon.

Alumni Columns
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002

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